THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 947 *Saturday, Dec.* 11, 1824. *Price* 1*d.*

Covent Garden Theatre.

THE Play of *As You Like It* was performed last night to an excellent house. Mr. YOUNG, Mr. C. KEMBLE, Mr. FAWCETT, Miss TREE, and Miss HAMMERSLEY, received much applause; the former young lady was rapturously encored in the Cuckoo Song.—*A Tale of Mystery* followed.

Drury Lane Theatre.

SHERIDAN's admirable Comedy of *The School for Scandal,* was acted last night, for the purpose of introducing to the London boards, a gentleman of the name of DOWNE, (from the Theatre Royal, York) in the character of *Sir Peter Teazle.* On our entrance, we were sorry to see by a placard, that Mr. ELLISTON was prevented by indisposition, from appearing as *Charles Surface.* Mr. WALLACK being to take that part, and Mr. ARCHER to play *Joseph.* This arrangement being understood, we prepared to fix our chief attention on the *debut.* On Mr. DOWNE's entrance he was received in a very chearful manner by the audience, an act that is honorable to the bestowers, and useful to the debutant, in giving him confidence by shewing that his judges are inclined to be liberal towards him. It is a painful thing at all times, or under any circumstances, to speak harshly of the first efforts of a candidate for public favor; but there is a paramount duty which we owe to that public in stating facts, which cannot be entirely suppressed Mr. DOWNE, although no doubt an experienced actor, cannot fill the line which the celebrated MUNDEN has left vacant. His voice, his features, and his style, are all against his successful performance of such a character as *Sir Peter Teazle.* The part might have been played in a superior manner by several gentlemen alreadyon the establishment. We will not proceed to particularise this attempt; and particularly as Mr. DOWNE himself seemed to feel the non-effectiveness of his acting; and at a moment of partially expressed disapprobation, and as it seemed of misapprehension on his side, he came forward and addressed the audience, stating that there was more than one version of the Play, (of which we are ignorant) and if he had said any thing that was not usually set down, his brother and sister performers were no sharers in the blame—that he played under some degree of indisposition, and therefore begged a favorable consideration for any faults in his performance. Mr. Downe

spoke this under much agitation, and the audience testified the best feeling on the occasion. In person Mr. DOWNE is short—in his features something like Mr. GATTIE; and in voice, not very dissimilar to Mr. KNIGHT's deepest tones. Mrs. YATES represented *Lady Teazle* cleverly; but her performance wanted more depth of style to give due effect to such a character.—She was very well received. Mr. WALLACK, as *Charles*, was lively and pointed, but his air is not always that of the perfect man of good breeding. Mr. ARCHER did *Joseph* respectably, and no more. The other characters were sustained by their former representatives sufficiently well. Mr. KNIGHT's *Moses*, and Mr. TERRY's *Sir Oliver Surface*, were distinguishable, however, for their superiority. We cannot say we wish to see *The School for Scandal* again here, until it can, as a whole, be better acted.

A new Musical Farce followed, entitled *My Uncle Gabriel*, which is a piece of very moderate pretensions: the humor chiefly consisting in the cut of Mr. KNIGHT's hair, and the *changeability* of Mr. HARLEY's dresses, adding thereto the talent of these gentlemen for raising a laugh by mere look and gesture. The Plot consists merely, of a lover, Lieut. Sutton, being disliked because he is poor, by the Uncle of Miss Eliza, but the old gentleman being imposed on by one Ready, a friend of the Lieutenant, believes him the nephew of a rich Nabob, and hastens the marriage by all the means in his power, when Ready owns his deception—the old fellow is laughed at, and the lovers are happy. It is a poor affair—the music by PARRY well enough. The reception was favorable. The following song by Mr. BEDFORD, was encored.

In battle some for glory seek,
Where death terrific sways,
While others hang on beauty's cheek,
And sigh away their days.
But we more wise,
Shun sparkling eyes,
That would enslave the soul;
We know no joys,
Like those my boys,
That sparkle in the bowl.

Let love-sick swains the willow wear,
And draughts of sorrow quaff,
'Tis time enough to hail despair,
When grown too old to laugh
Let us be wise.
Shun sparkling eyes,
That would enslave the soul:
And taste the joys,
My merry boys.
That sparkle in the bowl.

Books of the Songs are published by Mr. Miller, Bridge Street, Blackfriars, and at the Theatre, Price 10d.

Printed & Published by E. THOMAS, Denmark-court, Exeter-'change, Strand.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening (with Alterations) ROWLEY's Comedy of

A Woman never Vext;

Or, The Widow of Cornhill.

Foster, Mr YOUNG,
Henry the Sixth, King of England, Mr. BAKER,
Stephen Foster, Mr C. KEMBLE,
Walter Brown, Mr EGERTON, George, Mr HENRY
Sir Godfrey Speedwell, Mr BARTLEY,
Foster, Jun. Mr COOPER,
Clown, Mr BLANCHARD, Churchman, Mr EVANS,
Master Innocent Lambskin, Mr KEELEY,
Richard, Mr HORREBOW, Sharpe, Mr MEARS,
Fleece, Mr NORRIS, Gauntlet, Mr LEY,
Host, Mr BARNES, Officer, Mr CLAREMONT
Keeper of Ludgate, Mr ATKINS,
Jane, Miss JONES. Mrs Foster, Miss LACY,
Agnes Welsted, [*the Widow*] Miss CHESTER,

In act 5,

THE LORD MAYOR's SHOW,

As it passed through Cheapside in 1444.

☞ The COMEDY is published, and may be had in the Theatre, & of Mr DOLBY, 17, Catherine Street, Strand.

After which, the Opera of

The Frozen Lake.

Prince de Neubourg, Mr JONES,
The Grand Duke of Suabia, Mr BARTLEY,
Marquis de Valborn, Mr J. ISAACS,
Count de Linsberg, Mr. PEARMAN,
Wilhelm, Mr KEELEY,
Pages, Messrs. Mears, Henry, Norris, Tinney.
The Princess Louisa, Miss LOVE,
Baroness Matilda de Rosefeldt, Miss M. TREE,
Countess de Walstein, Miss HALLANDE.

On Monday, King John.—King John, Mr Young, Faulconbridge, Mr C Kemble, Lady Constance, Mrs. Bartley.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, the Opera of

THE CABINET.

Prince Orlando, (1st time) Mr SAPIO,
Count Curvoso, Mr GATTIE, Lorenzo, Mr HORN,
Marquis de Grand Chateau, Mr BROWNE,
Peter, Mr DOWNE,
(*From the Theatre Royal, York, his 2nd appearance on this stage.*)
Whimsiculo, Mr HARLEY,
Manikin, Mr HUGHES, Baptista, Mr POVEY,
Pietro, Mr HONNOR,
Falconers, Messrs Foster, Gibbon, &c.
Curioso, Mrs H. HUGHES,
Constantia, Miss POVEY, Leonora, Mrs BEDFORD,
Floretta, Miss STEPHENS,
Doralice, Miss POOLE, Crndelia, Mrs KNIGHT,
Bianca, Mrs HARLOWE,

After which, (2nd time) an Operatic Farce, called

My Uncle Gabriel.

Lieutenant Sutton, Mr HORN,
Gabriel Omnium, Mr TERRY, Scrip, Mr BEDFORD
Tom Tacit. Mr KNIGHT,
Jack Ready, alias Peter Profile, alias Ben Bluster, alias Uncle Gabriel... } Mr HARLEY
Eliza, Miss POVEY, Mrs T. Mrs ORGER.

On Monday, King John.—King John, Mr Macready, Hubert, Mr Terry, Faulconbridge, Mr Wallack, Constance, Mrs Bunn.

EXHIBITIONS.

Diorama, Regent's Park, Two New Views—Charters Cathedral, and Brest Harbour—Open Daily from Ten till Four o'Clock.